



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Feb. 16, 2007 Volume 10, number 4

A.S.L. AND L.W.F.F. DONATE MONEY TO DEER STUDY

LDWF and LSU recently received a \$1,000 donation from the Acadiana Sportsmen's League (ASL) and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation (LWFF) to purchase equipment for a deer telemetry study that started last fall. The project is titled "Population Characteristics of a White-tailed Deer Herd in a Bottomland Hardwood Forest of South-central Louisiana."

"ASL donated \$500 to the LWFF for the study," LDWF Deer Program Manager Scott Durham said. "The LWFF then matched ASL's donation to give us a \$1,000 total donation. This generous donation from ASL and LWFF will greatly improve the success of this research project."

Donations for research supplies are still needed. Any person or organization interested in contributing financially to the project should contact Scott Durham, LDWF Deer Program Manager, at 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70898 or by phone at 225-765-2351.

The ASL is a local non-profit affiliate of the Louisiana National Wildlife Federations that meets on the first Thursday of every month in either Rayne or Crowley. The organization encourages outdoor conservation by supporting LDWF with their Hunter Education Program and Operation Game Thief. ASL members who are certified hunter education instructors teach 12 hunter education classes per year, certifying nearly 200 hunters annually. For information on becoming a member of ASL, please visit their Web site at www.acadianasportsmen.org or call.

The LWFF mission is to enhance and encourage public enjoyment and use of the wildlife and fisheries resources of Louisiana. They promote, develop, expand and improve the facilities of LDWF and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The foundation accepts tax-deductible donations from individuals and corporations that help contribute to outdoor programs and insure that future generations will have access to quality outdoor recreational experiences. For information about the LWFF, please visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/aboutldwf/fisheries_foundation.

A. Wilbert's Sons L.L.C. is the primary landowner and cooperator for the deer study and is also providing technical, logistical and housing support. Michael J. Chamberlain, Ph.D., representing the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources, is directing the research.

The primary objectives of the study are to assess range and movements of white-tailed deer, evaluate age and sex-specific harvest rates and evaluate survival and causes of death among male and female white-tailed deer.

"This telemetry project will provide valuable information for Louisiana deer and land managers," said Scott Durham. "This information will help refine management plans dedicated to improving herd health and quality."

Researchers are conducting the study on approximately 40,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest located west of Baton Rouge and east of the Atchafalaya Basin. The study area is currently leased to more than 30 private hunting clubs, and each club belongs to a cooperative that promotes quality deer management on the property.

White-tailed deer are an important economic and recreational resource across their entire range. In Louisiana and other southeastern states, land managers are choosing strategies geared toward developing quality deer herds. Because this management regime involves restricting harvest of younger-age-class bucks and increasing the harvest of females to lower herd density, substantial interest exists in understanding the effects of quality deer management on population characteristics.

LDWF Administration

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Janice Lansing, Undersecretary
John Roussel, Assistant Secretary

Division Administrators

Gary Tilyou, Inland Fisheries
Karen Foote, Marine Fisheries
David Moreland, Wildlife
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L.D.W.F. RECEIVES \$250,000 DONATION FROM B.P. AMERICA FOR WHITE LAKE WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREA

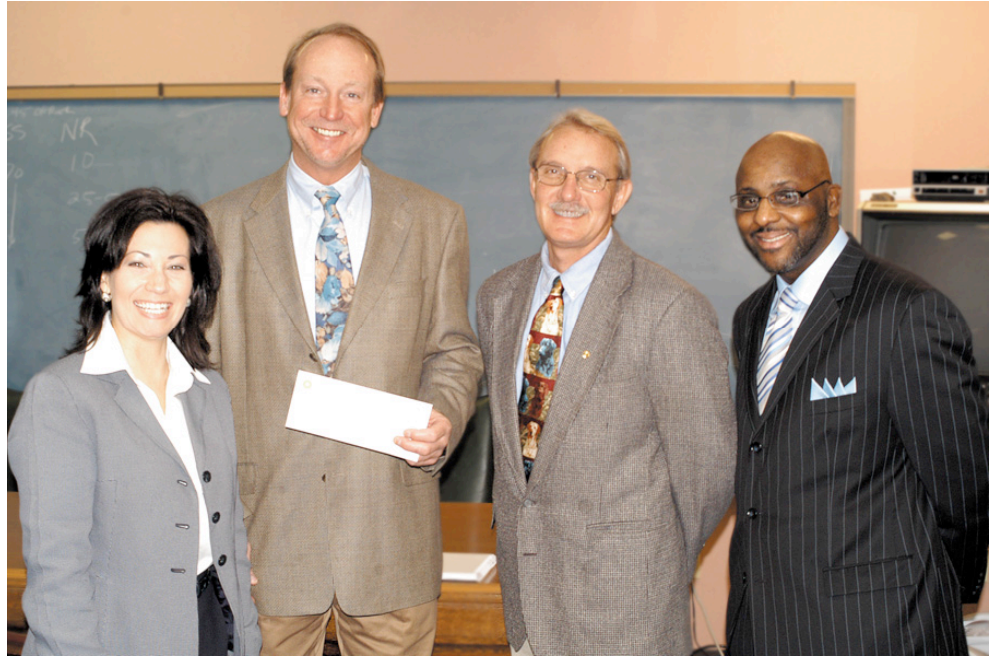
The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) received a \$250,000 donation this month from BP America Production (BP) to be used to offset operational costs of the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area.

"We commend BP in their efforts to assist the department with management and development of this valuable wildlife habitat," said Bryant Hammett, secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries.

In 2002, BP donated the 71,000 acres of wetlands and marsh land near Gueydan to the state.

LDWF assumed management control in July 2005. A 14-member board, appointed by the governor, works with LDWF in an advisory capacity on site management issues. The Jan. 24 donation is the fifth annual payment of this size committed to by BP in connection with its donation agreement of July 2002.

Photo by Thomas Gresham



From left to right: Marti Gazzier, general manager, B. P. Government & Public Affairs Gulf Coast and Mid Continent; Bryant Hammett, La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries secretary; Dr. Steve Linscombe, White Lake Property Advisory Board chairman; and Karl Connor, director, B.P. Government Affairs Louisiana and Mississippi.

Representing BP at the check presentation ceremony were Marti Gazzier, general manager, Government & Public Affairs Gulf Coast and Mid Continent, and Karl Connor, director,

Government Affairs Louisiana and Mississippi.

For more information, contact Bo Boehringer at 225-765-5115.

L.O.T.F. REMINDS LEASEHOLDERS OF REHAB PROGRAM

The Louisiana Oyster Task Force (LOTF) is reminding all Louisiana oyster leaseholders to apply for the Private Oyster Lease Rehabilitation (POLR) program with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

The deadline for submitting the POLR pre-application form has been extended from Feb. 16, 2007 to March 2, 2007. POLR pre-application forms and additional information were mailed to all Louisiana oyster leaseholders on Dec. 29, 2006, and completed forms must be returned to LDWF in order to participate in the rehabilitation program.

The POLR program has been developed to assist oyster

leaseholders with the rehabilitation of oyster resources on state-owned water bottoms under lease. This program is part of a federal hurricane disaster recovery assistance project aimed at rehabilitating and restoring Louisiana marine fisheries resources in the wakes of Hurricane Katrina and Rita (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant #NA06NMF4540319).

The LOTF is encouraging all Louisiana oyster leaseholders who have not yet returned the POLR pre-application forms to do so with a postmark of no later than March 2, 2007. If replacement pre-application forms are needed, please contact LDWF at 225-765-2940.



L.D.W.F. AGENT WAYNE PARKER RECEIVES TOP LOUISIANA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS - LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

The Department of Louisiana Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary honored Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division Senior Agent Wayne Parker on Jan. 27 with first place for the "State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award.

The award presentation was made in conjunction with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary, Mid-Winter Conference in Baton Rouge. The VFW annually recognizes the achievements of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and teachers for their outstanding performance and service to the public

Parker, an eight-year veteran of the



LDWF Enforcement Division and resident of East Carroll Parish, was selected for this prestigious award from among law enforcement officers from various agencies across the state. With this award, Parker will now be a candidate for national competition later in the year. Parker had previous-

ly been honored in March 2006 as a regional officer of the year during a ceremony at the Bastrop VFW Post, which qualified him for the state competition.

Parker was nominated by his supervisors for outstanding service and job performance. LDWF Enforcement Division Col. Winton Vidrine commended Parker on his accomplishment saying, "Senior Agent Parker is a dedicated law enforcement officer and is respected throughout his community for his professional service to the public. We are proud to have him as one of our officers."

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze at 225-765-2988 or kla-caze@wlf.louisiana.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DERELICT CRAB TRAP CLEAN-UPS

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is asking for volunteers to assist with the 2007 Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program. Volunteers and boats are needed to collect traps and assist with their disposal at the designated disposal sites.

The crab trap closures and clean ups will begin on Saturday, Feb. 24 and end Sunday, March 4 in a portion of the Lake Pontchartrain estuary and begin Saturday, March 3 and end Sunday, March 11 in a portion of the Barataria Bay estuary near Lafitte.

Traps within the closure area may be picked up at any time within the closure period, but it would be more beneficial if volunteers participated on Saturdays when LDWF personnel will be available and supplies (tarps, gloves, grappling hooks, garbage bags, etc.) distributed.

LDWF Sec. Bryant Hammett, announced the following

designated disposal sites for each closure:

- Lake Pontchartrain Estuary -- the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service boat launch on lower Bayou Lacombe, The Dock at Eden Isles, Lake Catherine Marina, and Bonnabel Public Launch.
- Barataria Bay -- C-Way Marina in Lafitte.

Handling derelict traps in the water or at the disposal sites can be a dirty and messy job. Volunteers should be reminded to wear appropriate protective clothing.

More details, including additional regulations, maps, description of the closure areas, and instructions for volunteers are available at the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Web site at www.derelictcrabtrap.net.

For more information contact Vince Guillory at 985-594-4139 or vguillory@wlf.louisiana.gov.



L.W.F. 68TH ANNUAL CONVENTION SLATED FOR MARCH 2-4

Conservation groups, sportsmen, environmentalists and natural resource management professionals from throughout Louisiana will convene at the Holiday Inn in Gonzales where the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) will be holding its 68th Annual Convention the weekend of March 2-4.

At the meeting, delegates and directors will discuss and vote on nearly 30 resolutions that have been proposed for adoption by LWF affiliates and directors. Subjects of the resolutions range from black bear recovery, dog trespass, red snapper regulations, scenic streams, funding for LDWF and habitat and greenspace acquisition to oil-field cleanup, conservation of coastal forests, establishment of a state coastal land trust, and public access to public waters and waterbottoms, among others.

The program begins with a social event on Friday evening when members, supporters and delegates will enjoy a fish fry and auction to raise money for LWF's conservation programs. Admission to this event is \$20 or \$15 for registered convention guests.

Debate on the resolutions will commence at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and run through noon in five different Conservation Committees.

The Board of Directors Luncheon will follow the committee meetings at which federation officers will be elect-

ed for the new term. Tickets to the luncheon are \$15 and the public is welcome to attend.

Those not participating in these and other convention business meetings are invited to sign up for a tour and luncheon that includes a visit to the Cajun Village, lunch at The Cabin restaurant and shopping at Tanger Outlet Mall. The tour fee is \$35 and includes convention registration.

Details of the General Session, 2:30 - 5 p.m. on Saturday, are still being finalized, but will include presentations on the New America's WETLAND Conservation Corps and the National Wildlife Federation's new initiative to recruit volunteers from across the country and throughout Louisiana to do post hurricanes habitat restoration and recovery work on state and federal wildlife lands impacted by the hurricanes; the need for a habitat and greenspace prioritization and acquisition program in Louisiana; and (tentative) the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's vision for a new wildlife rehabilitation facility on the Vet School campus.

A highlight of the convention will be the Saturday evening presentation of the LWF's Conservation Achievement Awards at a festive banquet honoring six individuals, a husband-wife team, an organization and a business for outstanding accomplishments in 2006.

The awards, handsome statuettes representing different wildlife species, are

highly regarded as the top symbols of conservation achievement that are presented annually in Louisiana.

The governor has been invited to present the awards along with Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation. Outdoor media personality, Don Dubuc, will be the Master of Ceremonies. The names of the award winners will be released the day of the banquet. The banquet begins at 7 p.m., preceded by a 6 p.m. reception. Banquet tickets are \$35.

The convention will close on Sunday morning after final action by the General Assembly of Delegates on the resolutions that have passed the committees.

LWF last met in Gonzales in 1998, almost 10 years ago.

"Ascension Parish is one of the most rapidly developing areas of the state," said LWF president, Terry L. Melancon of Prairieville. "We are losing habitat and open space hand over fist here. I hope the attention the LWF convention will bring to our area and some of the discussions we will have on preserving greenspace and wildlife habitat will stimulate our citizens and local officials to be proactive about planning the future of our community."

A preliminary convention agenda, and registration form are available on the LWF Web site at www.lawildlifefed.org or from the LWF office by calling 225-344-6707.

For the latest news, maps and information,

visit the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries web site: www.wlf.louisiana.gov

